

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04793 281011Z

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2520
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AMEMBASSY SANA

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 4793

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, YE, YS, SA
SUBJECT: TWINAM MISSION TO YEMENS

REF: (A) JIDDA 4769 (B) JIDDA 4770

1. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH MFA AFRICAN-ASIAN DIRECTOR SIRAJ REPORTED REF A, EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER ASKED SIRAJ HIS OPINION ABOUT EVENTS IN PDRY. SIRAJ GAVE BASICALLY SAME VIEW OF EVENTS AS THUNAYYAN (REF B), BUT ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT TWINAM MISSION SHOULD NOT BE CANCELLED BY U.S. RATHER, HE FELT THAT USG SHOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM PDRY GOVERNMENT THAT MISSION STILL WILLING TO COME IF INVITATION STILL VALID. IF PDRY REFUSES, THEN U.S. CANNOT BE BLAMED FOR NOT TRYING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.

2. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT SENDING MISSION TO PDRY AT THIS TIME COULD BE INTERPRETED AS TACIT CONDONING OF INTERNATIONAL GANGSTERISM OF MOST BLATANT KIND AND THAT UNITED STATES AT THIS TIME WANTED TO SHOW STRONGEST SUPPORT FOR NEW YAR GOVERNMENT. SIRAJ ANSWERED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR REASONING, BUT SAID THAT SAUDIS AND OTHER NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS HAD KEPT RELATIONS WITH PDRY DESPITE ADEN'S CONFIDENTIAL

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REGIME'S SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

3. SIRAJ SAID THAT AT THIS TIME IT WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO TRY TO OPEN COMMUNICATIONS WITH WHATEVER GOVERNMENT RULED IN PDRY. HE SAID THAT PREVIOUS SAUDI POLICY OF ISOLATION HAD BEEN MISTAKE AND THAT WHEN SAUDIS FINALLY DECIDED TO TRY TO MODERATE PDRY REGIME POLICIES BY ECON-

OMIC AID AND POLITICAL RECOGNITION, OPPORTUNITY HAD
ALREADY BEEN LOST. BY THAT TIME MODERATE FORCES HAD
ALREADY BEEN SERIOUSLY WEAKENED OR ELIMINATED ENTIRELY.

4. COMMENT: SIRAJ WAS GIVING US HIS PERSONAL VIEW, BUT
OTHER MFA OFFICIALS (E.G. ISMAIL SHURA, DIRECTOR OF ARA-
BIAN PENINSULA AFFAIRS) HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED IDEA THAT
SAUDI ARABIA'S 1977 RECONCILIATION WITH PDRY WAS TOO LATE
TO EFFECTIVELY WEAKEN MARXIST TRENDS IN THA COUNTRY.
BOTH SIRAJ AND SHURA SEEM TO BE ADMITTING THIER GOVERN-
MENT'S ERROR, AND SIRAJ WOULD LIKE BOTH U.S. AND SAUDI
ARABIA TO SALVAGE WHATEVER CAN BE SALVAGED IN PDRY.
SIRAJ'S SIMILAR IDEAS IN MATTER OF AFGHANISTAN WERE
REPORTED REF A.

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